

A N

A C C O U N T

O F T H E

Middlesex Dispensary.

L O N D O N :

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INTRODUCTION.

TO the man of feeling, few arguments need be used in favour of Medical Charities. The utility, and even the necessity, of such institutions, is fully evinced by the great number of objects continually applying to them for relief.

To support a decent appearance, and purchase the mere necessaries of life, is as much as the hard-working man is able to do, at this time, when in full employ. From a variety of events not to be foreseen, a total stagnation in his branch of trade may happen; his earnings and his wants have hitherto kept even pace; he has not therefore been able to make any reserve; his last penny is nearly spent: — Under these circumstances he is attacked with a grievous disorder, and probably a numerous family, dependant on him for their daily bread, are deprived of their support: — He now feels the double load of sickness and poverty; and, without the charitable interposition of the

benevolent Samaritan, must inevitably sink under its weight.

To assist the *poor* in such situations of complicated distress, is a duty incumbent on the *rich*, and that duty a DISPENSARY affords them an opportunity of discharging, in a manner the *most effectual* with respect to the *poor*, and the *least burthensome* with respect to *themselves*.

The peculiar utility of this mode of Charity, by which the sick poor are relieved at their own habitations, is so fully confirmed by experience, and the general voice of an approving public, that no apology is necessary for extending it to the eastern parts of this city.

The great deficiencies in the plan of an HOSPITAL are compleatly supplied in that of a DISPENSARY. The industrious mechanic who cannot, without great inconvenience, leave his family and reside in an Hospital;—the tender infant who cannot be separated from its mother to receive the benefit of it;—the asthmatic and consumptive who, from the nature of their complaints, cannot be admitted into it;—all these are provided with the requisite assistance in this Charity.

The sum which entitles the subscriber to the privileges of a Governor is so small, that those who are possessed but of *moderate fortunes* may render themselves *highly useful* to their indigent neighbours, and enjoy the exalted pleasure of becoming, through the medium of this Establishment, eyes to the blind,—feet to the lame,—and health to the sick.

A provision is likewise made in this Institution for delivering poor married women at their own habitations.

The great usefulness of the *Lying-in Charity*, established for the like purpose, in the year 1757, is generally acknowledged; but as the objects applying to that Charity have, for a considerable time past, greatly exceeded the number which could be relieved by it, the propriety of this part of the design is sufficiently obvious.

In common cases, the patients will have the assistance of *women* well instructed in the principles of their art; in cases of difficulty and danger, they will be attended by the *Physician* and *Man-midwife*; and, in extraordinary cases, they will have the additional aid of the *Consulting Physician* and *Man-midwife*.

The supporters of this department will be instrumental in saving many a tender husband from the most pungent grief—many an affectionate wife, with her helpless offspring, from the grave—and, which is a consideration of no little importance, in supplying the public with many experienced and skilful midwives.

On these principles the MIDDLESEX DISPENSARY is founded; and as the number of respectable persons who reside in the eastern parts of the metropolis is considerable, and the multitude of necessitous poor who live around them is great, the most sanguine expectations may be reasonably entertained, that it will soon be an INSTITUTION as flourishing as the design of it is benevolent.

G E N E R A L

R U L E S A N D O R D E R S.

R U L E I.

THIS Charity shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, and Governors, together with such Officers and Servants as may from time to time be deemed necessary.

II. Benefactors of One Guinea or more, annually, to the support of this Charity, shall be Governors as long as they continue such benefaction; and be entitled to have one Patient on the books for each Guinea.

III. Subscribers of Ten Guineas at one time, or such as make up their last subscription within the year to that sum, shall be Governors for Life, with the privilege of having always two patients on the books, and the liberty of attending and voting at all Monthly Committees.

IV. Upon

IV. Upon the payment of a legacy or donation of Fifty Pounds, or more, to this Charity, the person appointed to pay the same shall be a Governor for Life.

V. Governors by sending notice in writing to the DISPENSARY, may appoint other Governors to sign their Letters of Recommendation.

VI. A General Meeting shall be held on the First Thursday in the months of January, April, July, and October, *at which Meetings Seven Governors shall constitute a Board.*

VII. The President, Vice Presidents, and Treasurer, or any one of them, shall have a power to call a General Meeting at any other time, giving at least a week's notice, by letter, to each Governor, and inserting an advertisement thereof in some of the daily papers ; and if the Monthly Committee desire a General Meeting, the President, Vice Presidents, or Treasurer, shall call one accordingly.

VIII. The particular business for which any Extraordinary Meeting may be called, shall be expressed in the Summons, and first entered upon and determined before any other business be proposed.

IX. A Committee of Fifteen Governors (three of whom are to be a Quorum) shall be chosen at the General Meetings in April and October, to meet at the DISPENSARY, on the Last Thursday in every month, for the conducting the affairs of this Charity; at which Committee the Medical Officers, to wit, the Physicians, Accoucheurs, and Surgeons, may attend officially.—No person shall be permitted to vote on any matter under debate in which he may be interested,

X. At the Last Meeting of the Committee in April and October, they shall consider of proper persons to succeed them, as a Committee (in which not more than Seven of the old Committee shall remain) for the ensuing half year; and at their Last Meeting in every quarter, prepare the business to be laid before the General Quarterly Meeting.

XI. The President, Vice Presidents, and Treasurer, are to be Members of all Committees.

XII. At the Quarterly General Meeting in January, a Committee shall be appointed to audit the Treasurer's account for the year; and to form a Trust for all subscriptions paid by Life Governors, which shall be placed in the Public Funds, as long as shall be found necessary, and the interest thereof added to the annual income.

XIII. A Medical Committee shall be appointed at the same time, consisting of such Governors as practise Physic, Surgery, or Pharmacy, or, are conversant in the knowledge of drugs, (except those already excepted in the ninth rule) who shall have power to inspect the drugs and medicines, audit the bills for the same, and report, as they shall see occasion, to the Monthly Committee.

XIV. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Governors of this Charity, between the first day of February, and the thirtieth day of April; on a day to be appointed by the Monthly Committee, with the approbation of the President, Vice Presidents, and Treasurer, for an Annual Feast; when a state of this Charity shall be laid before the Governors.

XV. Nobility, Members of Parliament, and Ladies, who are Governors of this Charity, may appoint, in writing, other Governors, as their proxies, to vote for them at any election, which shall always be by ballot.

XVI. All public business shall be laid before the Monthly Committee, previous to its being brought before the General Meeting; reserving a right in the Members of the General Meetings to move any question, which shall afterwards be referred to the Monthly Committee, who are to
report

report to the next General Meeting, for a final determination.

XVII. No Servant of this Charity is to presume at any time, to take of any tradesman, patient, servant, or others, any fee, reward, or gratuity of any kind, directly or indirectly, for any service done or to be done on account of this DISPENSARY, on pain of being immediately discharged.

XVIII. The Servants of this Charity are always to be in waiting at the time of the General Meetings and Committees, to answer such questions, and do such business as may be required by the Chairman.

XIX. No new Governor shall be entitled to vote at any election, unless it shall appear that his subscription was paid on or before the day preceeding the balloting; and not more than one calendar month, nor less than fourteen days, shall be allowed from the declaration of any vacancy at a General Meeting, to the day of election.

LASTLY, The Physicians and Surgeons of this Charity, not receiving a settled gratuity; the residue of the annual subscriptions to the Medical department, shall, after defraying the necessary expences, be equally distributed among them in consideration of their services; and the residue of

the annual subscriptions to the Lying-in department, shall, after defraying the necessary expences of that department, be given to the Accoucheur in ordinary.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE.

They shall take into consideration every matter respecting the well-conducting this Charity, and if it should hereafter appear necessary to alter the present regulations, or substitute, or add new ones, they shall report the same to the next General Meeting.

They shall examine the several tradesmens accounts, and order payment of those which have passed a due inspection.

They shall appoint Three Governors, as House-Visitors, to superintend the due observance of all the foregoing Laws for the good management of this DISPENSARY, and who shall report their proceedings from time to time to the Monthly Committee.

They shall do as directed in the ninth resolution of General Rules and Orders.

They shall appoint a day with the approbation of the President, Vice Presidents, and Treasurer, for an Anniversary Feast, or Meeting of the Governors,

vernors, and make choice of Stewards for the day.

HOUSE - VISITORS.

One at least shall attend as often as convenient, in the hours of business, at the DISPENSARY, to inspect the conduct of the Officers and Servants; to see that the Patients behave with propriety, and in conformity to the Rules and Orders; and that the apartments are always in order for the reception of the Medical Officers and Committee.

If any thing from time to time, should hereafter appear necessary to be altered or added for the better government of this Charity, they shall report their opinion of such alteration or addition to the Monthly Committee.

PHYSICIANS.

Attendance shall be given at the DISPENSARY by one of the Physicians every day, (as soon as the number of Patients shall require it) at nine o'clock, punctually, Sundays excepted, to write for the Out-Patients; and afterwards they shall visit the Home-Patients, at their respective places of abode. By Out-Patients, is to be understood such whose disorders do not confine them within; by Home-Patients, such as are absolutely unable to attend, but who reside within the following limits;

mits ; viz. from the liberties of the city of *London*, to *Limehouse*, *Bethnal-Green*, and *Shoreditch Church*, including *Spital-Fields*, *Wapping*, and all the precincts and parishes of the *Tower Hamlets* therein.

Should indisposition, or any other reasonable cause, prevent the Physician in ordinary from attending, application may be made, until another be elected, to the *Consulting Physician*.

They shall hold a consultation in every case that may require it.

Their Pupils shall have the privilege of attending the patients with them, but are in no case either to prescribe or perform any operation.

S U R G E O N.

He shall attend every day (as soon as requisite) Sunday excepted, to examine all those Patients who shall come under his care, he shall visit such Patients at their own houses, within the district of this DISPENSARY, whose cases render them unable to attend.

His Pupils shall have liberty to attend him, at this Charity, but they shall not prescribe nor perform

form any operation, but by his immediate direction, and in his presence.

No capital operation shall be performed without the consent of one of the Physicians of this Charity.

A P O T H E C A R Y.

He shall constantly reside in the House to receive the Letters of Recommendation; to compound and dispense the medicines prescribed; and shall undertake, or attend, no other business whatsoever but that of this Charity. He shall be careful of every thing appertaining to the DISPENSARY, and see that nothing is wasted, spoiled, or embezzled; that the apartments and Committee-Room are always in order, fit for the reception of the Officers, and for the use of the Committees.

He shall be allowed an Assistant in his business when it appears requisite, subject to the controul of, and with such allowance as the Monthly Committee shall approve.

He shall on no account absent himself from the house without leaving a note where he is to be met with on any emergency, and taking care that his Assistant remain there till his return; he shall not absent himself one whole day and night,
without

without leave first obtained from the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Monthly Committee, or one of the House-Visitors; in which case he shall provide another Apothecary to do the business for him, and that with the approbation of the person or persons who granted such leave of absence.

He shall examine the rights of the Letters of Recommendation, and keep regular books, with a register of the Patients under care, their time of admission, on whose recommendation, and when discharged.

SECRETARY.

He shall personally attend all Meetings and Committees, at the appointed hours, unless prevented by any unforeseen accident, in which case he shall send a Deputy.

The proceedings of this Charity, from time to time, he shall keep accurately and methodically, and do all the incidental business requisite, which the Secretaries of other Charities or Hospitals are accustomed to do.

COLLECTOR.

He shall produce two or more securities for the approbation of the Monthly Committee, who shall

shall be bound with him in a bond of £500. for the faithful performance of his official duty.

He shall collect the subscriptions to this Charity regularly, as they become due, under the Treasurer's direction, to whom, or to the Banker; he shall pay them in as often as required: he shall not retain to the amount of £50. more than three days in his possession, under pain of being discharged.

P A T I E N T S.

Home-Patients shall send their Letters of Recommendation to the DISPENSARY any day of the week (Sunday excepted) by nine o'clock, to be presented to the Physician.

Out-Patients shall carry their Letters of Recommendation to the DISPENSARY, any day of the week (Sunday excepted) by nine o'clock, to be admitted, and receive advice.

Out-Patients shall attend the Physician or Surgeon at the DISPENSARY who first received them under his care, on the days of his attendance.

If any Patient neglect to attend the Physician or Surgeon at the DISPENSARY for Ten Days, such Patient shall be discharged.

They shall keep their Letters of Recommendation under cover, in order to preserve them clean.

They shall furnish themselves with phials &c. necessary to contain their medicines.

They shall behave themselves soberly and decently, and shall strictly conform themselves to such rules as shall be given them, on pain of immediate dismissal.

When cured they shall deliver up their Letters of Recommendation at the DISPENSARY, and return thanks to the Governors who recommended them; on neglect of which, they shall not receive any further favour or benefit from this Charity.

Patients whose disorders require only a repetition of their medicines must send for them between the hours of four and eight in the afternoon.

Complaints, if any, respecting the usage of Patients, shall be made to the House-Visitors by a Governor, in which case, the House-Visitors will, if in their power, remove the cause of such complaints, or otherwise refer them to the consideration of the Monthly Committee.

R U L E S
O F T H E
LYING-IN DEPARTMENT
O F T H E
Middlesex Dispensary.

R U L E I.

A N N U A L Subscribers of One Guinea to the *Lying-in* department, shall have the right of recommending Eight married women, within the year, to be delivered at their own habitations, and all the privileges of Governors at large, except that of recommending Patients to the *Medical* department.

II. Annual Subscribers of One Guinea to the *Medical* department, and Half a Guinea to the *Lying-in*, shall, for the former subscription, be entitled to the privileges already specified, and for

the latter, have the right of recommending Three women for *delivery*, in the course of the year.

III. Subscribers of Ten Guineas, at one time, to the *Lying-in* department, or such as make up their last subscription to that sum, within the year, shall be Governors for Life, with the privilege of recommending as many women as the Annual Subscribers of One Guinea, and so in proportion for every Ten Guineas subscribed.

IV. Annual Subscribers to, or Governors for Life of, the *Medical* department, who are Annual Subscribers of Half a Guinea to the *Lying-in* department, may, by paying Five Guineas at one time, or in the manner expressed in the preceding rule, become Governors for Life, with the privileges of the Annual Subscribers of the sum above-mentioned.

ACCOCHEUR.

The *Accoucheur in ordinary*, shall duly instruct in the principles and practice of Midwifery such women as the Monthly Committee shall nominate.

He shall attend at the DISPENSARY, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at one o'clock in the afternoon, to prescribe for such of the Patients in his department, as may need his advice.

He shall hold consultations with the other Medical Officers, in all cases in which they may be requisite.

M I D W I V E S.

The Midwives shall punctually execute the orders, and obey the directions, which may from time to time be given them by the Medical Officers of the *Lying-in* department; and such as shall receive instructions in midwifery from the *Accoucheur* shall be obliged to serve the Charity, at a low price, for the space of Two Years, in consideration of their being instructed *Gratis*.

In difficult labours, &c. requiring the aid of the *Accoucheur*, the *Midwife* attending, shall send to him an account of the particulars in writing.

No woman shall be instructed as a Pupil, nor officiate as a Midwife to this Charity, without the consent of the Monthly Committee.

P A T I E N T S.

The Letters of Recommendation shall be sent to the DISPENSARY, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at one o'clock in the afternoon, and the bearers shall receive in exchange, Tickets directed to the *Midwives* who may live near the persons recommended.

Should

Should all the *Midwives* of a district be engaged when sent for, the Patient shall be allowed to apply to any Midwife in her neighbourhood; who shall receive Five Shillings from the Charity for her attendance.

Every Patient in this department shall, after delivery, return thanks to Almighty God, at her usual place of worship, and to the Governor who recommended her; and upon neglect shall be refused any future benefit from this Charity.

TO such as are inclined to become Benefactors by will, the following form of a legacy is recommended:

Item, *I give and bequeath unto A. B. and C. D. the sum of*
to be raised and paid by and out of my personal estate and effects, which by law I may or can charge with the payment thereof, upon trust, and to the intent, that they, or either of them, do pay the same to the Treasurer (for the time being) of a Charity, called or known by the name of
THE MIDDLESEX DISPENSARY,
instituted in the year 1777, which said sum I desire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of the said Charity.

N. B. Giving

N. B. Giving land, or money, or stock, by will, to be laid out in the purchase of any estate for charitable uses, will be void by the statute of Mortmain; but money, or stock, may be given by will, without being directed to be laid out.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for this Charity are received by the following Bankers:

Sir THOMAS HALLIFAX, and Co. Birchin-lane;

Messrs. FULLER and SON, Lombard-street.

Messrs. MASON, CURRIE, JAMES, and YALLOWLY;
Cornhill; and by

The TREASURER.

F I N I S.

